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The National Wildlife Research Center



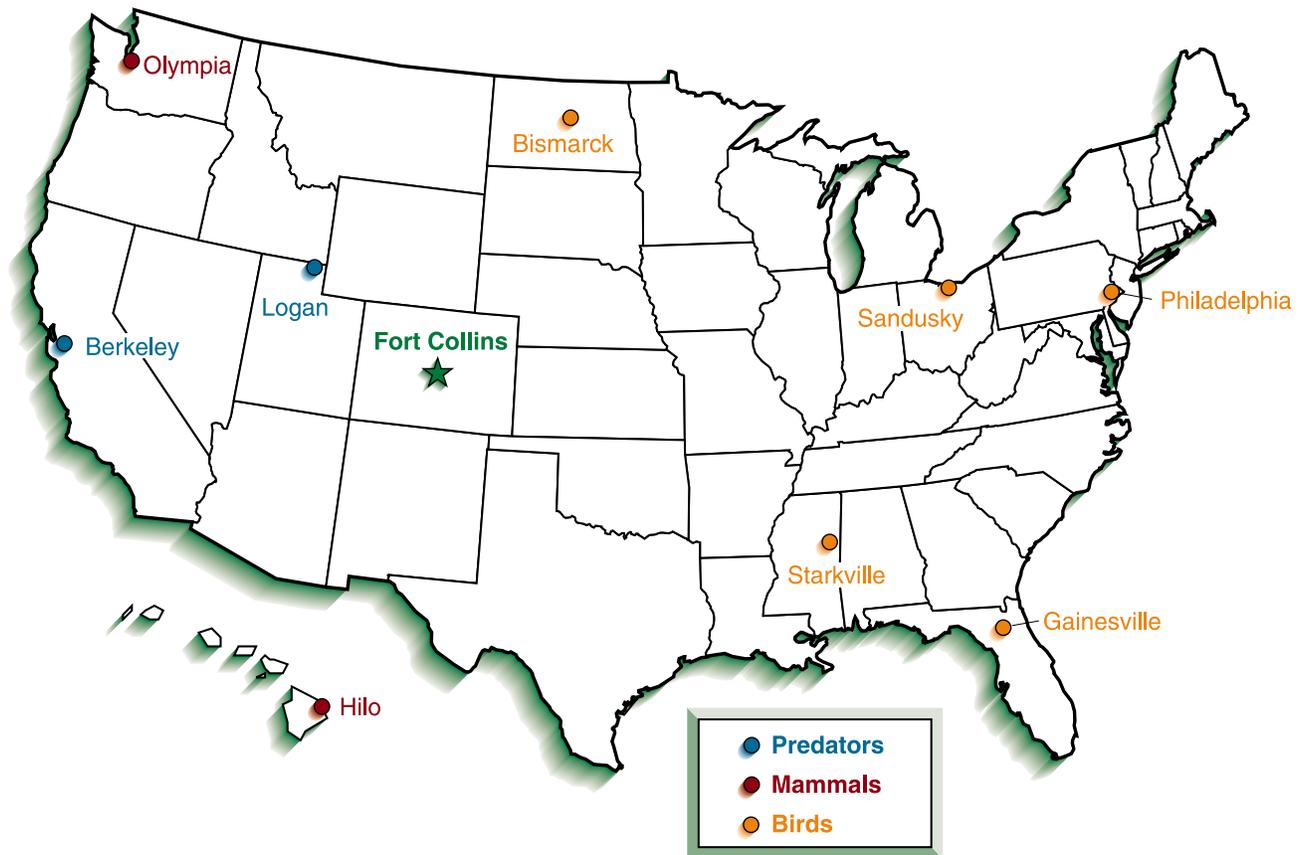
Welcome

Welcome to the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), a major facility within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) program. The NWRC provides scientific information on wildlife, its habitat, and its relationship to agriculture and public safety. Here at the Center and in the field, specialists conduct scientific inquiries into the problems of wildlife damage and look for solutions to these problems.

The NWRC seeks to protect wildlife from the adverse effects of human activities while also reducing

the damage and hazards that wildlife causes to agriculture, forests, industry, and other areas of human involvement. The reconciliation of these two conflicting priorities is the challenge that the NWRC faces today.

At the Center, we welcome the public, including students, legislators, scientists, agricultural producers, and other interested individuals. We encourage you to ask our employees questions.



Location of NWRC field stations and the primary research emphasis at each laboratory.

Mission and Objectives

The National Wildlife Research Center is the Federal institution devoted to resolving problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and society. The Center applies scientific expertise to the development of practical methods to resolve these problems and to maintain the quality of the environments shared with wildlife.

NWRC's objective is to increase the effective methods available for wildlife damage management through:

- Assessing damage and other problems caused by wildlife to agriculture, the environment, and human health and safety;
- Investigating the biology and behavior of problem animals;
- Evaluating the impact of wildlife management practices on wildlife and the environment;
- Developing and improving technology to reduce wildlife problems;
- Supporting registration of chemicals and drugs used to manage wildlife; and
- Transferring scientific and technical information.



Scientists at the National Wildlife Research Center use many modern methods in their attempts to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife.

The Problem and the Solution

No wild animal is undesirable. Yet almost any wild animal can cause damage to crops, be hazardous to aviation, or become a threat to human safety. Deer and smaller mammals can consume newly planted tree seedlings and other crops. Birds in large, high-density flocks can decimate grain and sunflower fields. Predators attack livestock and other domestic animals. Wild animals can spread diseases such as Lyme disease, rabies, plague, and histoplasmosis.

The Center evaluates damage situations and develops methods and tools to reduce or eliminate damage and resolve land-use conflicts. NWRC scientists study birds, mammalian predators, rodents, and other wildlife that cause serious but localized damage problems. The Center designs studies to ensure that the methods developed to alleviate animal damage are biologically sound, effective, safe, economical, and acceptable to the public. NWRC scientists produce the appropriate

methods, technology, and materials for reducing damage caused by animals. Through the publication of results and the exchange of technical information, the Center provides valuable data and expertise to the public and the scientific community, as well as to APHIS' WS program.



Chemical repellants are being tested at the Center as a method of dealing with "nuisance" geese on golf courses and in other urban areas.

History and Organization of the NWRC

Established in 1940 under the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey—the forerunner of the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—the Center was transferred in 1986 to APHIS as part of the WS program.

The Center employs more than 160 scientists, technicians, and support personnel at its Fort Collins headquarters and at field stations in several other States and foreign countries. Scientific and support staff, all focused on particular wildlife damage issues, specialize in the following disciplines:

Animal behavior/psychology
Animal care
Archives management
Biology
Chemistry
Computer science
Ecology

Electronics
Immunology
Information transfer
Pharmacology
Physiology
Quality assurance
Statistics
Toxicology
Veterinary medicine
Wildlife biology
Zoology

The Center relies on the services of people with additional specialties through extensive cooperative ties with universities, not-for-profit research facilities, and other public and private research entities. The NWRC has achieved an integrated, multidisciplinary research agenda that is uniquely suited to provide scientific information and solutions to wildlife damage problems.

Research Activities

With the diverse scientific expertise of its staff, the Center assembles teams that are devoted to finding specific solutions to pest problems caused by vertebrates.

Examples of the diversity of research projects currently under way at the Center include

- Management strategies to control blackbird damage in the United States
- New solutions for wildlife problems through biotechnology and immunocontraceptive vaccines
- Development and evaluation of new techniques for resolving predator depredation problems
- Ecology of coyote depredation
- Reduction of mammal damage to forest resources
- Integrated pest management strategies for rodent damage to crops and rangeland
- Development of management strategies to reduce bird predation at aquaculture facilities
- Registration of vertebrate pesticides for use as wildlife damage control agents
- Analysis of taste and olfaction in selected wildlife species and development of nonlethal chemical repellants for birds and mammals
- Management of wildlife that pose hazards to aviation
- Development of chemical control methods to manage the brown tree snake on Guam.



Transmitters developed and/or used at NWRC allow scientists to track movement patterns of a variety of birds and mammals accurately.

Cooperative Activities

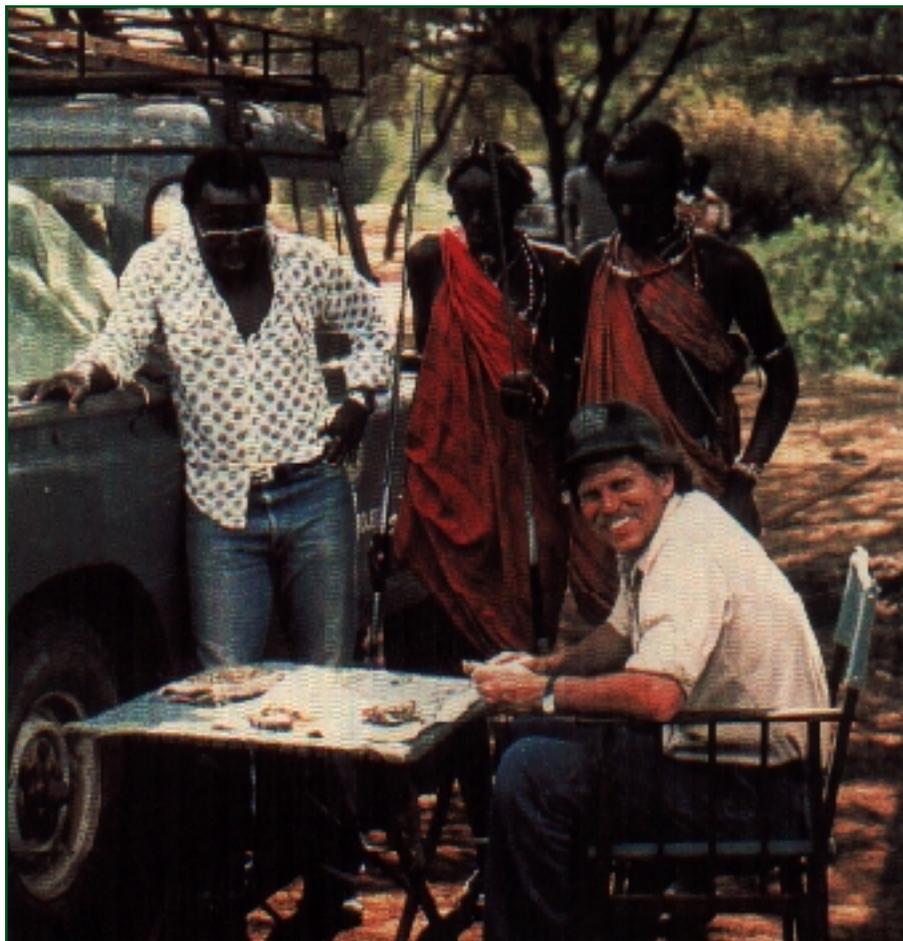
To extend its capabilities for research and training, the Center has established or is developing a number of formal or informal cooperative programs with U.S. universities. These include

Colorado State University
Cornell University
Mississippi State University
North Dakota State University
Rutgers University
University of California–Berkeley
University of Florida
University of Pennsylvania
Utah State University
Washington State University

International Cooperation

To facilitate international exchange of information, the Center cooperates with the U.S. Agency for International Development and other international organizations. In these cooperative efforts, NWRC scientists develop and test new techniques of wildlife damage management and transfer the wildlife damage-control technology to scientists and technicians in host

countries. Center scientists develop methods for reducing severe agricultural damage caused by a variety of rodents, birds, and other vertebrate pests in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.



The Center's international activities develop working relationships with people around the world.

Conclusion

The NWRC is committed to:

- Being responsive to the concerns and values of the public.
- Providing valid, objective information of the highest quality.
- Promoting the welfare of animals and the quality of the environment.
- Encouraging employees' high morale and growth and development.
- Maintaining a quality work environment.
- Providing equal opportunity for employment and advancement.

Studies conducted at the National Wildlife Research Center will continue to provide new information needed to protect American agriculture from wildlife-related problems. These studies will help America manage its wildlife resources wisely and effectively into the future.



Researching humane methods of dealing with problem prairie dogs and other burrowing rodents is a challenge for NWRC scientists.



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